(e) The office is well established and there are a large number of processing units closer to Cochin. Moreover, any shifting will entail large expenditure which is avoidable.

Houses at Cheaper Rates

*432. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA is primarily responsible for the ever increasing number of Jhuggis in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DDA has failed to provide houses and land at cheaper rates to the people belonging to lower income class; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) To meet the housing requirement of the growing population, DDA has so far floated 33 housing schemes, out of which 25 have been closed and 8 schemes are alive. DDA has already constructed 2,84,369 houses till February, 2003, out of which 76,234 houses are in LIG category and 91,625 houses for other economically weaker sections. Further 25,414 houses are at various stages of construction, out of which 13,115 houses are in LIG category and 2,696 houses are for economically weaker sections. It has also facilitated construction of large number of houses through plotted development and co-operative group housing societies. Owing to socio-economic factors beyond the control of DDA, there has been a menifold increase in the population of Delhi in the last 3 decades, leading to a consequential pressure on land and the coming up of jhuggis.

To decongest Delhi and encourage dispersal of population and economic activities from Delhi, the Government constituted the National Capital Region Planning Board in 1985 which has, through the years helped in creation of residential and industrial areas and physical infrastructure in the national Capital Region.

Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers of Turkman Gate Delhi

*433. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that slum dwellers of Turkman Gate area of Delhi were removed and subsequently re-allotted quarters at the same area;

(b) whether it is also a fact that slum dwellers of the adjoining area, namely, Kali masjid Chack 4 and 5 were also removed but alternative dwelling units have not yet been allotted to them;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take on the representation made by the Association of Evictees Members of Dr. Ambedkar Slum Utthan Sansthan for re-allocation of permanent accommodation as per provisions of the slum clearance Act?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Slum and JJ Department of Municipal Corporation of Delhi has reported that 798 families were evicted from Turkman Gate area. Out of these evictees of Turkman gate flats have been allotted in the same areas to 475 families. Many of these families were initially accommodated in Government quarters at Mata Sundari Road Complex as transit accommodation and on temporary basis. Depending upon the availability of flats, the evictees living in the transit accommodation in Mata Sundari Road Complex have been rehabilitated on permanent basis from time to time.

Slum dwellers living in the adjoining area namely Kali Masjid Chunk 4 & 5 were also removed and accommodated in vacant Government bungalows at Mata Sundari Road Complex on a temporary basis. So far 60 out of the 232 evictees have been allotted flats at Kali masjid area itself. Dr. Ambedkar Slum Utthan Sangathan in CWP No. 6981/2002—titled Dr. Ambedkar Slum Utthan Sangthan Vs. MGD & Anr had moved the Hon'ble High Court against rehabilitation on various grounds but the said petition has been dismissed. Slum & JJ Department are making efforts to rehabilitate the evictees of these slum families at various localities on a permanent basis and propose to shift them from the transit accommodation only after providing them alternative allotment.

Failure to Check the Spread of TB

*434. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts have criticised Government for its failure to check the spread of TB in the Country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that various programmes launched to eradicate TB have not been effectively implemented in the country resulting in inci ease of TB patients;